The Act also forbids night duty for women except with the previous permission of the State Government. However, this provision is not applicable to midwives and nurses employed as such in plantations.

Women labourers in different industries are provided similar facilities under Labour Laws such as Factories Act, 1948, Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 the rules framed under Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act and other labour laws.

(b) As per 1991 Census, the total female labour force including marginal workers in the country is 89,767,563. About 32.9% of women labour is employed in Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Fisheries. 9.1% in manufacturing, 7.4% in Mines and Quarries and balance 50.6% in construction, household industry, trade and commerce, transport, storage, communication and other services.

(c) and (d) There are special enactments such as Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 and Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 which are meant to safeguard their rights and secure them the required benefits and facilities. Some of the enactments provide for establishing separate facilities for women e.g., Factories Act, 1948, Plantation Labour Act, 1951, Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 Rules framed under Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. These facilities/welfare measures are provision of latrines/urinals, washing places and creches for care of their children. Employment of women during night hours is also not allowed under these enactments. In addition the Factories Act, 1948 prohibits employment of women in hazardous processes.

Some of the other enactments like Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, Workmen Compensation Act, 1923 do not make any distinction between male and female workers.

Strength of National Trade Unions

3571. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a foolproof system of verification of the respective strength of all trade unions in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such a system;

(c) how often does such verification takes place;

(d) whether International Labour Organisation has given any advice on the best way to have a sound verification system of the membership of these trade unions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) The 29th Session of the Indian Labour Conference held on 21st & 22nd April, 1990 endorsed the procedure for verification of membership of Central Trade Union Organisations (CTUOs) as formulated by the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) in consultation with the CTUOs. A Standing Committee of CTUOs on general verification was constituted on 25.1.91 under the Chairmanship of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), to advise the Government on the issues related to the procedure of verification and monitor the progress thereof.

(b) and (c) Details of the verification procedure are at Annexure. [*See* Appendix 171, Annexure No. 58]

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.